

# The County of Centre

## PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 3 of 2016

**WHEREAS**, everyone has the right to a safe and healthy relationship and to be free from abuse.

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 3 young people are affected by physical, sexual, or verbal dating violence, with 1 in 5 in a serious relationship reporting having been slapped, pushed, hit, threatened or coerced by a partner, and breakups can be a time of even greater risk even when a relationship was never physically abusive; and

**WHEREAS**, females between the ages of 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate almost triple the national average; and

**WHEREAS**, high school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at greater risk of suicide and are much more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly half of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship ever tell anyone about the abuse, and 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is one; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centre County Women's Resource Center works hard to raise community awareness and to provide training for teachers, counselors and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence and works with youth and teens to help them recognize healthy relationships, identify unhealthy behaviors, seek help, and become engaged bystanders; and


**WHEREAS**, Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing dating violence and to show support for the organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, education and services and assistance to victims;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim February 2016 as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" throughout Centre County and urges everyone in our community to work toward ending teen dating violence by empowering young people to develop healthier relationships and by assisting victims in accessing the information and supportive services they need.

**ADOPTED** this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2016.




ATTEST:

  
Denise L. Elbell, Acting Administrator

CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Michael Pipe, Chair

  
Mark Higgins, Vice Chair

  
Steven G. Dershem